THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) and (b). The setting up of State Women Commissions comes within the purview of the State Governments. As a result of continuous persuasion by the Government, all the States except the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Uttaranchal have constituted state level women commissions. It is expected that through a similar process of persuasion, the remaining States can also be persuaded to set up state commissions.

Literacy rate

5185. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that so far literacy rates are concerned there are wide inter and intra State differences;

(b) if so, the details thereof with literacy rates among male and female separately; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation so far female literacy rates, especially in Northern States are concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) A statement giving State-wise break up of literacy rates of males and females in 1991 and 2001 is annexed. (*See* below).

(c) The steps taken by Government under various Schemes to improve female literacy rates are as follows :

(1) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

A new Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been launched to implement Universalization of Elementary Education. The goals of SSA are as follows :

- All children in school/Education Guarantee Scheme center, Alternate school, back to school camp by 2003.
- All children complete five years primary education by 2007.
- All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.
- Focus on Elementary Education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- Bridge all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at Elementary Education level by 2010.
- Universal retention by 2010.

In addition, some of the special interventions included for the girl child are :

- Intervention for early Childhood Care and Education.
- School/EGS like alternative facility to be set up within one kilometre of all habitations.
- Upgradation of EGS to regular schools.
- Special mainstreaming camps for out-of-school girls/SC/ST children under the alternative and innovative Education Component.
- Provision of process based community participation with a focus on the participation of women and SC/ST.
- Provision of contact specific innovative intervention for girls' education and education of SC/ST children upto Rs. 50 lakhs in a district in a particular year in which the ceiling for each intervention is Rs. 15 lakhs.
- Mid-day meal programme.
- Incentives like uniforms and scholarships to be funded from State Plan only.
- Adequate Teaching Learning Equipment for all Primary and Upper Primary schools.
- Atleast 50% of the teachers to be appointed have to be women.
- Special teaching support as per need.
- Using Community Teachers.
- Provision of free textbooks to all girl/SC/ST children at primary and upper primary level with an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child.

(2) Mahila Samakhya

Mahila Samakhya Programme has been in operation since 1989. It is a women's empowerment project and endeavours to create an environment for women to seek knowledge and information in order to make informed choices. The principal strategy is to organize women into collectives called Mahila Sanghas to identify their needs and evolve collective ways to deal with their problems.

Currently, the Mahila Samakhya programme is operating in 60 districts covering more than 9000 villages in 10 states of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal.

(3) National Literacy Mission

Under National Literacy Mission (NLM) focus is given on female literacy. Special innovative projects are being taken up to raise the level of female literacy in low female literacy areas. Special efforts are being made to target female Panchayati Raj functionaries and make them literate.

Statement

State-wise break-up of literacy rate of males and females in 1991 and 2001

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Census 1991			Census 2001		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.6	51.4	29.7	54.74	67.07	44.24
2.	Andhra Pradesh	44.1	55.1	32.7	61.11	70.85	51.17
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	73.0	79.0	65.5	81.18	86.07	75.29
4.	Assam	52.9	61.9	43.0	64.28	71.93	56.03
5.	Bihar	38.5	52.5	22.9	47.53	60.32	33.57
6.	Chandigarh	77.8	82.0	72.3	81.76	85.65	76.65
7.	Chhatisgarh	—	—	—	65.18	77.86	52.40
8.	Delhi	75.3	82.0	67.0	81.82	87.37	75.00
9.	Daman & Diu	71.2	82.7	59.4	81.09	88.40	70.37
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	40.7	53.6	27.0	60.03	73.32	42.99
11.	Gujarat	61.3	73.1	48.6	69.97	80.50	58.60
12.	Goa	75.5	83.6	67.1	82.32	88.88	75.51
13.	Himachal Pradesh	63.9	75.4	52.1	77.13	86.02	68.08
14.	Haryana	55.8	69.1	40.5	68.59	79.25	56.31
15.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	54.13	67.94	39.38
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	54.46	65.75	41.82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Karnataka	56.0	67.3	44.3	67.04	76.29	57.45
18.	Kerala	89.8	93.6	86.2	90.92	94.20	87.86
19.	Lakshdweep	81.8	90.2	72.9	87.52	93.15	81.56
20.	Meghalaya	49.1	53.1	44.8	63.31	66.14	60.41
21.	Madhya Pradesh	44.2	58.4	28.8	64.11	76.80	50.28
22.	Mizoram	82.3	85.6	78.6	88.49	90.69	86.13
23.	Maharashtra	64.9	76.6	52.3	77.27	86.27	67.51
24.	Manipur	59.9	71.6	47.6	68.87	77.87	59.70
25.	Nagaland	61.6	67.6	54.7	67.11	71.77	61.92
26.	Orissa	49.1	63.1	34.7	36.61	75.95	50.97
27.	Punjab	58.5	65.7	50.4	69.95	75.63	63.55
28.	Pondicherry	74.7	83.7	65.6	81.49	88.89	74.13
29.	Rajasthan	38.5	55.0	20.4	61.03	76.46	44.34
30.	Sikkim	56.9	65.7	46.7	69.68	76.73	61.46
31.	Tamil Nadu	62.7	73.7	51.3	73.47	82.33	64.55
32.	Tripura	60.4	70.6	49.6	73.66	81.47	65.41
33.	Uttar Pradesh	41.6	55.7	25.3	57.36	70.23	42.98
34.	Uttranchal	—	—	—	71.28	84.01	60.26
35.	West Bengal	57.7	67.8	46.6	69.22	77.58	60.22
	India	**52.2**	**64.1**	**39.3**	**65.38**	**75.85**	**54.16**

*Census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir in 1991.